

Weekly American

DEVOTED TO POLITICS, LITERATURE, AGRICULTURE, NEWS, AND GENERAL MISCELLANY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1858.

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C. W. FENTON,
Washington City, D. C.

PROSPECTUS OF THE WASHINGTON AMERICAN.

We can hardly think it necessary to urge upon those who hold that Americans ought to rule America, the importance of having a paper at the seat of the Federal Government, which shall enunciate and advocate the doctrines of the American party.

A paper issued from any of the great centres of a nation, but especially from the political Metropolis, in the present age, not in this country only, but in Great Britain, France, and wherever there is the least freedom of discussion, is a medium through which those holding similar sentiments in regard to public affairs and public policy, may make known, discuss and defend their views, and expose the impropriety of the principles, and the impolicy of the measures of their antagonists. It should earnestly labor to give a proper direction to public opinion by enlightening the public mind.

The American is the only paper published at the seat of the Federal Government which advocates American doctrines; the only sentinel of the party stationed where a near and clear view can be had of the movements and doings of their opponents at their headquarters. Here political information concentrates, and from hence it radiates to every part of the empire; here party measures and movements are determined, and political campaigns planned; here stratagems are concocted and thwarted, and here at certain seasons of the year politicians meet to do battle, in short, in this centre of the great political maelstrom, in which so many thousands are constantly plunging and forever gyrating.

If the American party is desirous of being a national party, it should not be without a paper here through which it can make known to all people its views, aims and opinions, and which shall also reflect the calumnies that are sent from time to time uttered against it through ignorance or a less excusable motive; and we, therefore, take hope that the American, standing as it will stand, upon the platform of the American party, advocating as it will advocate, the paramount rights of native-born citizens, eschewing as it will eschew, all interference with slavery as a national concern, and maintaining, as it will maintain, perfect freedom of opinion and of conscience in religion, will find favor in the eyes of all truly patriotic citizens in the land, and commend itself to their generous support.

Last we may not have been specific enough in declaring our principles, we add, that the FOREWELL ADDRESS of the Father of his country, as illustrated by the broad light of his administration, is our political text-book and code medium; and shall be our compass and chart.

PLATFORM

Of the American Party, adopted at the session of the National Council, June 9, 1857.

1st. A humble acknowledgment to the Supreme Being, for His protecting care vouchsafed to our fathers in their successful Revolutionary struggle, and His blessing upon their noble efforts, in the preservation of the liberties, the independence, and the union of these States.

2d. The perpetuation of the Federal Union, as the palladium of our civil and religious liberties, and the only sure bulwark of American Independence.

3d. Americans must rule America, and to this end native-born citizens should be selected for all State, Federal, and municipal offices or government employment, in preference to all others; *nativitas*.

4th. Persons born of American parents residing temporarily abroad, should be entitled to all the rights of native-born citizens; but

5th. No person should be selected for political station, (whether of native or foreign birth,) who recognizes any allegiance or obligation of any description to any foreign prince, potentate or power, or who refuses to recognize the Federal and State constitutions (each within its sphere) as paramount to all other laws, as rules of political action.

6th. The unqualified recognition and maintenance of the reserved rights of the several States, and the cultivation of harmonious and fraternal relations, between the citizens of the several States, and to this end, non-interference by Congress with questions appertaining solely to the individual States, and non-interference by each State with the affairs of any other State.

7th. The recognition of the right of the native-born and naturalized citizens of the United States, permanently residing in any Territory, to vote, to frame their constitution and laws, and to regulate their domestic and social affairs in their own mode, subject only to the provisions of the Federal Constitution, with the privilege of admission into the Union whenever they have the requisite population for one Representative in Congress. *Provided*, that none but those who are citizens of the United States, under the constitution and laws thereof, and who have a fixed residence in any such Territory, ought to participate in the formation of the constitution, or in the enactment of laws for said Territory or State.

8th. An enforcement of the principle that no State or Territory ought to admit others than citizens of the United States to the right of suffrage, or of holding political office, or of exercising any public function, or of holding any public office, or of making a continued residence of twenty years, of all not hereinbefore provided for, a independent requisite for citizenship hereafter, and extending all laws, and persons convicted of crime, from landing upon our shores; but no interference with the vested rights of foreigners.

9th. Opposition to any union between Church and State; no interference with religious faith, or worship, and no test laws for office.

10th. Free and thorough investigation into any and all alleged abuses of public functionaries, and economy in public expenditures.

11th. The maintenance and enforcement of all laws honestly enacted, until said laws shall be repealed, or shall be declared null and void by competent judicial authority.

12th. A free and open discussion of all political principles embraced in our platform.

THE AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, MAY 15, 1858.

"THE UNION OF THE UNIONISTS, FOR THE SAKE OF THE UNION!"

There are no people in the world so utterly the slaves of opinion, and who stand in such awe of the eyes of others, as the people of the United States, and more especially our women. Dr. Franklin said it was the eyes of other people, not our own, that raised us; and this has been emphatically the case of late years, and is now. It is "other people's eyes" which have brought our country to its present depressed state, commercially and financially.

A SIMPLE AND EFFECTUAL REMEDY FOR DIARRHEA.—Take a large table spoonful of flour and mix it thoroughly with a little less than half a tumbler full of water. Drink it, and if the disease is not checked in half or three quarters of an hour, repeat until it is. It will soon arrest the most obstinate case, and cannot do any possible harm.

Our brethren of the press will serve the cause of humanity by giving this a place in their columns.

JAMES B. CLAY.

This gentleman seems to be on hand on all occasions whenever there is work to be done for the party that kept itself in power for years by vilifying and calumniating his father. Nor does he ever fail to remind his new associates that he is the son of Henry Clay, though he takes good care to say nothing of those calumnies they so long indulged in. Being called out the other night, he said that "within less than one hundred yards from where he stood his father died, and he was born." [Great Applause.]

Was the applause given because his father died? or because he was born?

BREAD.

Why is it that now when flour costs per barrel, only about half, and even less than half, what it was a year or two ago, our loaves neither increase in size, nor lessen in price? Do the bakers suppose that their customers never hear when flour falls? or have they found by experience that the people of Washington, accustomed as they are to paying enormous prices for everything, can be imposed upon with perfect impunity? Is it not time that those who depend on the bakers for bread, should put a stop to imposition such as they are now submitting to? Let a meeting be called to take measures for this purpose, or let the city legislature take it in hand.

"Him there he found
Squat like a toad close at the ear of Eve,
Assaying by his devilish art to reach
The organs of her fancy."
Him, thus intent, Ithuriel, with his spear,
Touched lightly;—Up he starts,
Discovered and surprised.

Back step those two fair angels, half amaz'd
So sudden to behold the grisly king."

We had occasion last week to touch lightly the "fabled monster," "Sphinx," with the tip of our steel pen, when I "up he starts, discover'd and surprised," "in his own shape," S. YORK AT LEE.

Ithuriel and Uzziel could not have been more amazed when, having touched the toad at the ear of Eve, it stood before them "the grisly king," than we were to see "the fabled monster," "Sphinx," assume the shape of our quondam "brother, AT LEE."

Well, "brother AT LEE," how are you? It is now some months that we have not had the pleasure of a "grip" of your honest hand. But who would have thought that from a *Know-Nothing* you had become a "Sphinx!" A capital joke, that; capital! Almost equal to that funny song you used to entertain us with. But you were always fond of fun and cutting queer capers. And are we really to be deprived of your notice hereafter? Well, we must try to bear the deprivation with as much fortitude and resignation, as did the Democratic party your estrangement until the party made the amende to you.

By the by, that was a good joke, too, was it not, "brother, AT LEE?"

The lofty bearing, the pure, elevated, and incorruptible patriotism that once characterized our public men, and the dignity that marked the proceedings in our halls of legislation, have almost passed away; and it is only here and there that one of the old land marks are found, showing more clearly the contrast between the past and the present.

But a few days since, General Houston rose in his place in the Senate and remarked:

"I have sat here, Mr. President, for nearly twelve years, and I must confess that I have never met in this chamber a single day that I have not been intensely mortified that I was a member of this body, in some respects. I will remember there was a time when this body was the most decorous, dignified and respectable body that my eyes ever looked upon. The material here is good enough, but there is a total disregard of everything like order and respect to fellow-members when they are addressing the body. It is not alone that disorder exists in the galleries, but it exists on the floor of the Senate. The rules of the body are such as to enable the officers of it to enforce authority, and to maintain order and profound silence."

The most of these men of mind and mark, who once filled the important posts of honor and trust under our Government, have either gone "to that far distant country from whose bourn no traveler returns," or have retired to the shades of private life, disgraced and discouraged, and unwilling longer to act upon a theatre, with a class who have acquired position and place, and who are incompetent to guard, protect and watch over the sacred truth committed to their guardianship.—*Wash. Cor. of the Baltimore Patriot.*

A COMMON-SENSE VIEW OF THE SUBJECT.

We listened to a conversation a short time ago between two gentlemen, friends and neighbors, but who differed widely from each other, on the subject of slavery. We shall, for convenience, call them Mr. Thompson and Mr. Johnson. Both of these gentlemen had been old, staunch, Clay Whigs, earnest, honest, and influential. One, Mr. T., still remains what he always has been; the other, a year or two ago, joined the Republican party, and has been a very zealous opponent of slavery.

Happening to meet, they entered into conversation upon the all-absorbing subject of Kansas, Lecompton, the English juggle, &c., when Mr. Johnson began to give utterance to his sentiments in regard to slavery. Mr. Thompson, in the most friendly spirit, and with as much good nature as good sense, remarked to him that, as that was a topic upon which their notions differed widely, and as neither could expect to make a convert of the other, he thought it a very unprofitable use of time to discuss it. "You and I," said Mr. T., "agree about the great essential doctrines of Christianity, though we belong to different sects; why should I undertake to convince you that you ought to be an Episcopalian, or you me—that I ought to be a Presbyterian? Neither of us could succeed in such an attempt, and need only create feelings that had better not be excited; in regard to non-essentials, it is better, if we do not think alike, to agree to disagree amicably—each has an equal right to his opinion, and who shall decide which is right and which wrong? You and I were old Whigs, and took pride in following the banner of our most gallant leader, Henry Clay; we do not differ now in regard to the great principles of government, and the measures we then advocated, but you have got some notions about slavery different from mine, and have joined the Republican party. You think slavery the most horrible thing that ever was, and are for making war upon it without respect to the rights guaranteed by the Constitution to those who own slaves. Now, though I have no liking for the institution, yet having been accustomed to it from infancy—having been born and lived in its midst till I was man-grown, I cannot see it in the light you do, nor can I look upon those who hold slaves as you do, why, then, should we discuss the subject? Why agitate it at all? What has been gained by it? I admit that some men at the North and at the South have made their way to Congress by this agitation; there are fanatics on both sides, and they are the only persons who are benefitted by keeping the people constantly irritated upon the subject, and creating heartburnings, jealousies, and hatreds between the two sections. If you wish to put out a fire, you surely will not keep fanning it, stirring up the coals, and adding fuel to it, but rather let it alone, that it may smother itself in its own embers. You have a perfect right to your own opinion, but I would ask, as a friend and neighbor, whether you think, on the whole, that the agitation of this question has not done much harm by producing estrangement between the people of the South and the people of the North; and whether its continued agitation is likely to strengthen the bonds of the Union, or the contrary? I wish you to understand that I speak in no spirit of unkindness; I only wish you to reflect seriously upon the subject when alone; discuss it with yourself, and not with others; with a desire to arrive at a right conclusion, and not to win a victory in an argument. The slavery question was the rock upon which the Whig party stranded; has its dismemberment resulted in covering the country with blessings and benefits? But enough; let us hereafter consider the subject a taboed one as between us; if we cannot agree, we will not disagree about it, and then we shall get along harmoniously, as all good neighbors should."

It is proper we should add, that Mr. Johnson admitted, in reply to Mr. T., that he now concurred in the general views, and especially in regard to the impolicy of further agitation of the subject of slavery. He agreed that it would be much better to tranquilize the country, and turn our attention to the promotion of its trade, commerce, and manufactures, and industrial interests.

A SHORT SPEECH.

FELLOW-CITIZENS: Gentlemen Democrats, Anti-Know-Nothings, and all who want little places under the Mayor: Andrew Jackson said once that the Federal Union shall be preserved; [applause:] and I say to you, to-night, that if you will only elect me Mayor of Washington, law and order shall prevail in Washington city. [Great Applause.]

All the rowdies that have been harbored here under the present Democratic Anti-Know-nothing Mayor, shall be kicked to Joppa. All the murderers and assassins, burglars and thieves that have infested our city and been petted and protected under this same Democratic Anti-Know-Nothing dynasty which we have found to be such a blessing that I hope you will elect me to perpetuate it, shall be forthwith—that is, as soon as they have voted for me—sent to some other city where their votes may be needed for a like purpose.

And now, gentlemen Democrats, Anti-Know-Nothings, Old Whigs, and all who are assembled here to-night, having told you what Andrew Jackson said he would do, and promised what I will do, I now take my leave.

The official result of the late Philadelphia city election has been declared, showing a total vote of 62,839, which is an increase of 7,880 since the last mayor's election. The Democratic vote for mayor then was 29,434, and now it is 29,068. The opposition vote then was 25,445, while now it is 33,771. Mr. Henry, the successful union candidate, has a majority of 4,701, and the other union candidates' majorities ranging from 2,887 to 3,681. Mr. Vaux, Democrat, for Mayor, runs 996 behind the highest candidate on the Democratic ticket.

"SAVE ME FROM MY FRIENDS."

We do not doubt that it was Mr. Buchanan's intention, when he found himself elected to the Chief Magistracy of the country, to adopt and pursue a policy that would promote the harmony as well as the interests of the people, and by so doing to deserve their confidence, and to retire amid plaudits of "well done," even from the lips of those who had opposed his election.

If such were his desire and intention, no sooner did he commence his career, even before he had taken the oath of office, than he committed a grave error; an irretrievable one. We allude to the selection of his Cabinet. From the moment of his nomination, he allowed himself to be surrounded by men, and to be controlled by an influence most unfortunate and fatal to him and to his party. From that day he has been mesmerized and controlled, chiefly by men who make it their boast that they broke up the Whig party, and they may now justly claim that they have also broken up the Democratic party.

The leading spirit among these quondam Whigs, is Senator Toombs; a man of decided ability, of indomitable courage and resolution, and who is resolved to rule or ruin any party to which he may, for the time being, belong. We question not the patriotism of his motives, but he is a man of such iron will and self-reliance, that, in his opinion his judgment is infallible; what he thinks right must be so, and all others wrong; and all must follow his dictation, or be prepared to battle with him.

Mr. Toombs undertook to control President Taylor and his Administration, but finding the old soldier made of too stern material to be bent and moulded by him, he and his other self went at once into opposition. Next came Mr. Fillmore, with whom the same game was attempted to be played, but with a like result, and again Messrs. Toombs and Stephens joined the Democratic party, where they have been ever since.

Upon the incoming of the present Administration, Mr. Toombs brought his will to bear upon Mr. Buchanan—the strong upon the weak—and the latter was soon as a child in his hands, following wherever the other led, until he finds himself in a hammock or swamp, up to his hips in the mire, and still plunging on, in obedience to the will of his leaders, in hopes to find terra firma somewhere, though with nothing but mud, thorns, and a boundless morass in view. His situation, and that of the Democratic party, is a deplorable one, and forcibly reminds us of that of the Roman legions under Varrus, in the swamps of Germany, where they were utterly destroyed.

Like the Roman legions, that party was invincible to all its enemies; its columns were impregnable, its confidence in itself unbounded, and its prestige of victory equal to a host; no power but itself, or the injudiciousness of its leaders could defeat it; but their rash folly led it into a position where, like the army we have referred to, it became broken, dispirited, helpless, and lost.

Messrs. Toombs and Stephens, Benjamin, Pearce, Faulkner, Jones of Tennessee, Clingman, and other pseudo Whigs, may now survey the scattered wrecks of the Whig and Democratic parties, and boastingly exclaim, "We did it; we are the architects of these ruins; we reaped ourselves upon the Whigs, and now we have the satisfaction of having broken and dismembered the Democratic party. Yes, we did it."

The Buffalo Commercial Advertiser has some judicious remarks upon an article it copies from the Richmond Whig upon the reconstruction of parties. It sees in the various opposition parties, the elements necessary to construct a great national, conservative, Union party. That paper says:

"All that is needed to accomplish this is a union in good faith on the platform of opposition. Affirmative measures will arise in due time, but they should be left to the harmonizing influences of association, and a large charity should be exercised on minor points of difference. Names and platforms are the real obstacles in the way, in this case as in all others. More good measures have been defeated by the attempt to construct party platforms than by any other means."

"The next Congress, says the Commercial, should leave the administration in a minority," and we doubt not that it will. We cannot for a moment suppose that any one who stood firmly up to the Crittenden amendment, will be defeated in the next Congressional elections, while a large number of those who have misrepresented their constituents on the Lecompton question, will undoubtedly be permitted to "go into a state of retracy," there to chew the cud of sleet and bitter reflection.

Parties cannot be arbitrarily formed; they spring naturally out of the feelings and impulses of the masses of the people when stirred up by questions, measures, or acts which deeply concern them and the honor and interests of the country. A common interest, a common danger, or a common injury bring men together and prompt them to act in concert, who may have been, up to that moment, entire strangers to each other, or even bitter enemies. The paper we have quoted very pertinently recalls the historic fact to memory, that it was the oppressiveness of the stamp tax, the Boston port bill, the tax upon tea, &c., which drew together the patriots of the Revolution, and caused them to act in union and concert in the ever memorable and glorious struggle of the Revolution. "The rallying cry then was for all who were opposed to the tyranny of George the III; now it must be for the gathering of all opposed to the tyranny of James the I, and the despotism of central power under which the country now groans."

The Revolution brought together those who had hereditary and traditional antipathies and enmities—the Puritans and the Cavaliers, the Yankees and the Dutch—but all prejudices gave way to the stronger and nobler feeling of patriotism and the love of liberty, and side by side on the field of battle, and in the councils of the nation stood, sat, fought, and acted the Puritan and the Cavalier, the Dutchman and the Yan-

kee, as if but one womb had given birth to each and all; Adams and Patrick Henry, Hancock and Washington, Greene and Schuyler, Sherman and Pendleton, Sullivan and Lee, and a host of others.

So in the late contest in Congress; who could ever have expected to see Douglas and Seward, Stuart and Hale, Marshal and Giddings, Underwood and Washburn, Davis and Colfax, Haskin and Grow standing together upon a great and exciting measure?

Yet so it was; and having thus acted together on so important a question, and being each and all sustained by public opinion and by their respective constituencies, why should they not act together hereafter in the sustenance of great measures, and an enlightened, liberal, conservative national policy? If by such a union the slavery question can be remitted to those to whom it exclusively belongs; if the American doctrine in regard to aliens can be thus sustained; if a policy can be agreed upon and carried into effect that shall look to the promotion of American interests by the encouragement of American labor and manufactures, and the fostering of American commerce, why should those who desire only to advance the public interests, refuse to avail themselves of the means of accomplishing such important ends?

Party affinities are hard to break, and party prejudices hard to overcome; men can shift their principles and change sides upon measures with much more ease than they can change a party name. Party names are powerful even when all that they once signified has gone. Names last longer, and are more stubborn than the things they represent. But when great interests are at stake, and a common danger impends, names and prejudices give way to common sense and patriotism.

LOVE FOR LOVE:

OR THE DEBTS OF CHILDREN TO PARENTS.

Filial love may be shown by patience and forbearance with parents, when they are descending the vale of years. It is one of the beautiful orders of Divine Providence that we may pass through successive stages of growth and decline, before we are suffered to complete the pilgrimage of life, and thus the parents who tended us in infancy become dependent on us for the same tenderness when they are feeble by sickness or old age. Sometimes God calls parents out of the world while their children are yet in youth. But he does bless and honor that house in which he spares the aged sire and venerable mother, to be the glory of their children; to counsel them, to pray with and for them, and to receive their gentle ministrations of filial love.

It is a privilege for which we should be unspeakably thankful, to be permitted to smooth the passage to the grave of those who led us by the hand along the path of life in the morning of our days! To shield them from the storms of a pitiless world, by giving them a pleasant resting-place by our own fireside in the midst of our children, in whom they may live over again the scenes of their former days when we were sporting on their knees! We owe them this retreat—we owe them more than this and more than all we can ever give. To make them a return in kind or in degree, is beyond our power. If we make it a matter of debt and credit with our parents, we shall be bankrupt always. You may load them with riches, the fruit of your own life's long toil; you may carry them in your arms to their nightly couch, and watch them till the morn returns; you may whisper words of kindness in their ears, and smile lovingly on them as their eyes grow dim with age; you may hold their dying hand upon your breast, and wipe the death sweat from their brows, and kiss away their expiring breath, and lay them softly in the grave—all this is what a parent most desires, when he knows that he is about to die; but all this and a thousand fold more will never repay the debt of gratitude you owe for parental love and care when you were an unconscious infant, walling in a mother's arms.

While you were in the cradle, you had a fit of sickness. You knew not that one whose heart was almost breaking with anxious fear was hanging over you, watching with intense solicitude your breathing through the long, long night, kissing you to sleep when in feverish dreams you started from your slumbers and screamed in fright; singing through her tears, and soothing you with such tender pressures as only a mother's arms can give, when folding a sick babe to her own sick heart. Had you died in her arms, she would have been paid when she found you again an angel among the angels.

"Oh! when a mother meets on high
The babe she lost in infancy,
Hath she not then, for pains and fears,
The day of woe, the watchful night,
For all her sorrows, all her tears,
An over-payment of delight?"

But you lived; and now the debt is upon you, increased by years of such days and nights, through which your parents have followed you with anxious hearts and watchful eyes, to keep you from falling, to help you in trouble, to lead you in the ways of usefulness and point you to the gates of eternal life.

The strength of a parent's love has been tested in a thousand cases, and it has never failed. The story of Jacob and Joseph is on the great chart of Old Testament history, to be studied, age after age, as one of the most touching and beautiful passages in the annals of human love. Yet every parent whose heart has not been hardened by vice, is a Jacob in affection for the children that God has given him.

The tie is tender but strong, and often it seems to fasten itself on objects that have no loveliness save in the eyes of parental regard. How frequently do we observe with delight that the least favored child in the group is the favorite in the parental heart. Perhaps it is deformed, or helpless; perhaps deficient in intellect; yet its very infirmities, that make it less attractive to others, secure for it such a place in a fond father or mother's love, that its loss of beauty, or of limbs, or of intellect is a gain of love to the child. When death has come into the family circle, and taken away this child, the neighbors and friends have said that it was a mercy to have it removed, for they thought it no comfort to its parents; but those parents have grieved more over its death than they would over any other one of their little flock. Its helplessness won upon their sympathies. Because others cared less for it they cared more for it. And I have heard such

terwards none. On the next day he took out the entrails and carried them two or three miles off on the prairie and buried them. His first thought was to throw the body into the river, but there was too much ice.

He then procured a common case knife and carpenter's saw, and, after much trouble, succeeded in getting them sufficiently sharp to perform his bloody work. After cutting the body up he procured a common whisky barrel, put the limbs in, after burning such parts of her clothing as had blood spots on them, and headed it up. On turning the barrel over, he saw water and blood coming out of the bung-hole. He took it out and threw in a quantity of flour to staunch it, put up all the cracks and painted it all over.

Early in the morning of the 16th of March, after keeping the body ten days in his room, he met a drayman on Clark street bridge, and asked him to take the barrel to the depot. The man consented, and went up to his room. He proceeded to roll it down stairs. Jumpert, fearful lest the barrel might burst, requested him to carry it down as he had commenced, the body sitting against the sides of the barrel, all the way down, filling him with dread and apprehension lest the drayman should discover his secret. The body was finally got to the depot and shipped to New York that morning.

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An over-payment of delight?"

But you lived; and now the debt is upon you, increased by years of such days and nights, through which your parents have followed you with anxious hearts and watchful eyes, to keep you from falling, to help you in trouble, to lead you in the ways of usefulness and point you to the gates of eternal life.

The strength of a parent's love has been tested in a thousand cases, and it has never failed. The story of Jacob and Joseph is on the great chart of Old Testament history, to be studied, age after age, as one of the most touching and beautiful passages in the annals of human love. Yet every parent whose heart has not been hardened by vice, is a Jacob in affection for the children that God has given him.

The tie is tender but strong, and often it seems to fasten itself on objects that have no loveliness save in the eyes of parental regard. How frequently do we observe with delight that the least favored child in the group is the favorite in the parental heart. Perhaps it is deformed, or helpless; perhaps deficient in intellect; yet its very infirmities, that make it less attractive to others, secure for it such a place in a fond father or mother's love, that its loss of beauty, or of limbs, or of intellect is a gain of love to the child. When death has come into the family circle, and taken away this child, the neighbors and friends have said that it was a mercy to have it removed, for they thought it no comfort to its parents; but those parents have grieved more over its death than they would over any other one of their little flock. Its helplessness won upon their sympathies. Because others cared less for it they cared more for it. And I have heard such

parents say that their little blind daughter was more comfort to them than all the rest of their children. This is no strange thing, that the parents should so cling to their children. The wonder is that in all the world there can be found one son or daughter so ungrateful and cruel as to make a parent feel

"How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is
To have a thankless child."
N. Y. Observer.

THE "CHIEF MOURNER."—There is a genius in this city, yeelp Hatfield, who has earned a reputation in a novel manner, which will not greatly serve him in time of need. The detectives have his daguerreotype, as well as those of some of his confederates. He operates ingeniously and with marked success, in a mode of financing which a common thief would hardly have thought of. It is his wont to attend funerals, and, at the customary exhibition of the corpse, to press to the side of the coffin, there to mingle his tears with those of the friends of the deceased. Hence the sobriquet of "Chief Mourner" has come to be his ordinary appellation in police circles and other associations where men of his character are known. While honoring the deceased, he keeps an eye open for the living, as did the Ephesian widow; and as others come near to take a last view, he contrives to relieve their pockets of whatever valuables they may contain. His operations had become so extensive that it was found necessary by the bereaved to keep their attention on the alert, and the result was the detection of the lugubrious gentleman of whom we have been writing. He is a shrewd financial man, and has been unusually successful in his peculiar department of industry.—N. Y. Post.

BAPTISM IN HOOPS.—At Chicago, last week, in this city, yeelp Hatfield, who has earned a reputation in a novel manner, which will not greatly serve him in time of need. The detectives have his daguerreotype, as well as those of some of his confederates. He operates ingeniously and with marked success, in a mode of financing which a common thief would hardly have thought of. It is his wont to attend funerals, and, at the customary exhibition of the corpse, to press to the side of the coffin, there to mingle his tears with those of the friends of the deceased. Hence the sobriquet of "Chief Mourner" has come to be his ordinary appellation in police circles and other associations where men of his character are known. While honoring the deceased, he keeps an eye open for the living, as did the Ephesian widow; and as others come near to take a last view, he contrives to relieve their pockets of whatever valuables they may contain. His operations had become so extensive that it was found necessary by the bereaved to keep their attention on the alert, and the result was the detection of the lugubrious gentleman of whom we have been writing. He is a shrewd financial man, and has been unusually successful in his peculiar department of industry.—N. Y. Post.

THE MINISTER REQUESTED HER to assume the dress peculiar to such an occasion, but she declined to take off her hoopskirt. The minister told her of the inconvenience that must necessarily result from her obstinacy, but she persisted. When she came to descend into the bath the inflated skirt touched the water and rose up around her like a balloon. Her head was lost to the congregation; she was swallowed up in the swirling skirt; the minister tried to force her down into the bath, but she was kept above the surface by the floating properties of the crinoline, and was buoyed up so successfully that it was not until after much difficulty and many forcible attempts to submerge the lady the minister succeeded in baptizing the fair one. Finally it was effected, to the relief of the minister and the seriously inclined audience, who could not keep from laughing in their handker